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## COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES FISH AND GAME COMMISSION

### MINUTES

Thursday, December 18, 2003 Meeting  
6:00 p.m.

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Room 374A

### COMMISSIONERS PRESENT

Brad Nuremberg, Chair  
Sandra Aronberg, Vice Chair  
Douglas Drummond  
John Hybarger

### STAFF PRESENT

Martha Littlefield  
Ken Wales

### OTHERS PRESENT

Steve Holl, Consultant  
Dick Conti, Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep  
Mike Ralles, President, Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Nuremberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2003 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Drummond, seconded by Commissioner Hybarger, the Commission unanimously approved the September 24, 2003 minutes.

### REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Staff reported the balance of the propagation fund as of November 30, 2003 is \$105,461.54 does not reflect outstanding encumbrances of \$12,369.17. **On motion of Commissioner Drummond, seconded by Commissioner Hybarger, the Commission unanimously approved receiving and filing the financial report.**

### CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Update from the National Wild Turkey Federation on the Rancho La Brea Turkey Osteological and DNA Analysis. The purpose of the study is to verify remains of turkeys found in the La Brea Tar Pits are similar to the wild turkeys they would like to introduce into the wild. The next step will be the review of all the specimens for possible reintroduction.

California Department of Fish and Game Correspondence regarding the San Gabriel Mountains Bighorn Sheep Recovery Effort. **On motion of Commissioner Drummond, seconded by Commissioner Hybarger, the Commission unanimously approved receiving and filing these items.**

### REPORT FROM STEVE HOLL ON THE IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY TO RESTORE THE SAN GABRIEL BIGHORN SHEEP POPULATION AND GRANT REQUEST FROM STEVE HOLL FOR \$12,380 TO FACILITATE STAKEHOLDERS MEETINGS FOR THE SAN GABRIEL BIGHORN SHEEP RESTORATION STRATEGY

Steve Holl discussed the draft of the restoration strategy presented in September and the initial amount

required to restore the sheep estimated at \$4.9 million. The Grand Prix fire improved most of the habitat work identified in the restoration strategy for the San Bernardino Forest and reduced the cost implementing the restoration strategy by \$1.4 million.

The Forest Service submitted a \$540,000 budget request for Bighorn Sheep restoration for 2004 through 2007 for population surveys, habitat monitoring including the nutritional health, capturing and collaring sheep, administrative work, public education and funding for a program manager.

In October Mr. Holl, Commissioner Hybarger and Jim Davis, California Department of Fish and Game, provided a well-received presentation to the San Gabriel Mountains Regional Conservancy. The Conservancy agreed to participate in the stakeholders group and attempts to secure project funding; and they requested an update presentation in the spring of 2004.

The Department of Fish and Game captured and collared six adults. All the sheep are still alive and two adults have GPS collars for constant monitoring. The Lytle Creek project was postponed indefinitely. In January, the Department will install drop nets in Kettle Canyon to capture animals in February. The annual survey is scheduled for March. Funding to hire a lion trapper to collar a mountain lion in the Lytle Creek area was secured.

The report of the discovery of a dead lion cub found in the ashes was not substantiated and no dead sheep were found. If there is sheep mortality due to the fire it is minimal.

Mr. Holl requests an additional \$12,380 to form a stakeholders group interested in finding a resolution. He has a list of potential participants interested in the restoration. The importance of this project, the money expended to date, the need to continue and that Mr. Holl be the spokesperson for the project securing the assistance of outside financial sources were discussed.

Staff reported that \$12,369.17 is outstanding for the restoration of the Bighorn Sheep, of which \$10,030 is for the capture/collar project for the Department of Fish and Game, with the remainder committed to Steve Holl's last grant request.

Commissioner Hybarger recommended if the Commission continues with the project that it collaborates with the Forest Service and the Department of Fish and Game and Mr. Holl act as a primary speaker regarding accurate news releases for the program.

Mr. Holl reported that six individuals are interested in participating. Two from the sheep society, one from the mountain lion foundation, one from the Sierra Club, one individual that maintains a Bighorn Sheep website and an individual interested party. Meetings would be structured to review the restoration strategy and obtain their approval or modifications to it.

Commissioner Hybarger stated if the Commission did not continue with the initiative, the momentum of this project could be lost to other projects and costs. He also stated that the stakeholders could become a non-profit organization/conservancy and focus solely on the Bighorn Sheep. The Commission should view the stakeholders as long-term facilitators in developing the stewardship of the Bighorn Sheep.

Commissioner Drummond questioned the need for stakeholders to meet separately from the Commission. Mr. Holl stated the meetings would require a great deal of review and modification before the strategy would be ready for presentation to the Commission.

Concern regarding the amounts available for funding of other projects was discussed, since the flow of fine revenues has diminished. To date \$53,195 has been committed to this particular project.

Commissioner Hybarger asked Mr. Holl that at the conclusion of his proposal where the Commission would be at that point regarding involvement. Mr. Holl anticipates that the project would be capable of applying for and securing federal funding to continue and finish the restoration. It would be his desire/intent to see the Commission continue its participation by being a conduit in the distribution of future federal funds for the restoration.

Chairperson Nuremberg questioned Mike Ralles and Dick Conti from the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep about the importance of the Commission's involvement. Mr. Conti stated that the contributions and pressure brought to bear would not have occurred without the Commission's efforts. Parties are just now starting to unify and he strongly urged the Commission to continue its support. Mr. Ralles, President of the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep also recommended the Commission's continued support. **On motion of Commissioner Drummond, seconded by**

Commissioner Aronberg, the Commission unanimously approved receiving and filing Steve Holl's report and the \$12,380 grant request to facilitate stakeholders meetings for the San Gabriel Bighorn Sheep Restoration Strategy.

#### **DISCUSSION OF A COMMISSION INTERNET WEBSITE**

This item is continued to a future meeting.

#### **MATTERS NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA**

Commissioner Hybarger reported that the statewide commissioners meeting scheduled for November was cancelled when Department of Fish and Game representatives were unable to attend. He recommends formatting an agenda that would not be impacted by the Department for the spring conference the Commission hosts to avoid a last minute cancellation. One suggestion may be a symposium dealing with urban wildlife.

Chairperson Nuremberg requested staff contact the acting director and secure an attendance commitment. Staff reported that in the past, notices were sent out to local agencies, the State and other counties to encourage attendance. A similar effort can be made in the event State representatives are unable to attend.

Chairperson Nuremberg advised there will be an item on the January agenda regarding the archery deer hunt in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties and whether to support it or not.

Commissioner Hybarger requested staff obtain information regarding the situation of the last male mountain lion in the Santa Monica Mountains and whether or not the depredation license was rescinded and place this item on the January agenda. This animal is collared and is providing scientific data on movement and habits. The cost of the study exceeds the value of five goats the lion killed.

Staff stated that the election of officers will be on the January agenda and CalTip plans to submit a grant request for the January meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were none.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.